

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 088781

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OECX, SP

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: STATE 077472

1. SINCE REFTEL, CHAIRMAN AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF SPANISH COMMISSION FOR 3ICENTENNIAL HAVE BEEN IN WASHINGTON BRIEFLY AND ADVISED CULTURAL ATTACHE AGUSTIN CANO THAT COMMISSIONER IS CONVINCED THE ONLY SUITA0LE REPRESENTATION FOR SPAIN AT FESTIVAL IS "GRUPO DE COROS Y DANZAS DE ALMODO3AR DEL CAMPO" FROM CIUDAD REAL PROVINCE.

2. CANO SEEMS TO CONCUR WITH SMITHSONIAN OPINION THAT THIS GROUP UTTERLY INAPPROPRIATE SINCE IT REPRESENTS COSTUMED, CHOREOGRAPHED INTERPRETATION OF FOLKLORE, NOT AUTHENTIC SURVIVING FOLKLORE TRADITION. HE HAS NOT PRESUMABLY CABLED COMMISSION OF SMITHSONIAN REJECTION OF ALMODOBAR GROUP AND INSISTANCE ON SMALL GROUPS OF AUTHENTIC UNSCHOOLED FOLK ARTISTS FROM VARIETY OF PROVINCES, EVEN IF NOT THE SPECIFIC ARTISTS IT HAD PREVIOUSLY NOMINATED.

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PAGE 02 STATE 088781

3. SMITHSONIAN BELIEVES DE LARREA IS SYMPATHETIC TO SMITHSONIAN APPROACH BUT DESIRES TO NAME OTHER INDIVIDUALS.

THIS AGREEABLE TO SMITHSONIAN IF TAPES, RECORDS OR FILMS ATTEST TO THEIR AUTHENTICITY AND ARTISTRY. SMITHSONIAN ALSO BELIEVES MARUJA SAMPELAYO OF SECCION FEMININA UNDERSTANDS AND SYMPATHIZES WITH ITS APPROACH.

4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS ARE PERHAPS UNAWARE OF ELABORATE GROUNDWORK FOR HISPANIC PRESENTATION AT FESTIVAL. FOLK ARTISTS ALREADY SELECTED FROM MEXICO, PUERTO RICO, SOUTHWESTERN U.S. SPANISH-SPEAKING GROUPS AND NATIVE AMERICAN GROUPS, WHOSE MUSIC AND DANCE PATTERNS REFLECT SPANISH SOURCES. IF SPAIN INSISTS ON FOLKLORICO TROUPE, THESE SOURCES ARE CORRUPTED CULTURALLY AND THE CENTERPIECE OF THE HISPANIC PRESENTATION IS FALSIFIED

5. CANO HAS BEEN GIVEN UNTIL APRIL 19 TO STRIVE FOR SUITABLE, AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATION OR SPAIN WILL BE DROPPED FROM LIST OF INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS. POSSIBILITY OF TOURING AFTER THE FESTIVAL APPEARANCES HAS ALREADY BEEN DROPPED (WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, MEANS GROUP CANNOT BENEFIT FROM EXCURSION RATE AIRFARES UNLESS GOS CAN MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH CHOSEN AIRLINE).

6. REPEATING REFTEL'S REQUEST, SMITHSONIAN WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INQUIRIES USIS COULD MAKE AND PRESSURES IT MIGHT APPLY BEFORE APRIL 19 TO OBTAIN AN APPROPRIATE AND MEANINGFUL SPANISH PRESENTATION FOR FESTIVAL. KISSINGER

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